(b) if so, the total applications made for getting WLL in Orissa and the time-frame and Government's action plan to supply WLL connections to all of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 41662 WLL connections have been provided in different part of the State and 1456 customers are in the waiting list. The waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 2004.

Telephone Directory

1710. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Delhi and Mumbai Telephone Directories which were supposed to be distributed in December, 2003;

(b) if the directories are delayed, by when these are expected to be distributed to subscribers at the earliest and the reasons for delay thereof;

(c) whether he examined to include the telephone numbers of other telecom service providers in these directories and whether TRAI would make it mandatory for these service providers to include their numbers as the public is put to immense difficulties without the listings; and

(d) whether Government propose to give option to the subscribers to exchange printed directories with that of CD; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) In MTNL Mumbai the tender evaluation is being done for printing of Telephone Directories. In MTNL Delhi, the tender is under finalization.

(b) Telephone Directories are likely to be distributed to the subscribers in 6 to 9 months in MTNL Delhi. In MTNL Mumbai, the Directories are likely to be distributed in July 2004. The delay occurred on account of collecting some important information from other agencies/organizations like paper manufacturers, yellow pages publishers and finalization of Tenders etc. for proper evaluation of the cost and revenue realization.

(c) Yes, Sir. The case has been examined and it has not been found feasible to bring out a Comprehensive Telephone Directory for MTNL, BSNL and other Telephone Service Providers as it will add more volumes to the already voluminous Telephone Directory making it difficult to carry and inconvenient to use and will result in further delays & high costs. Therefore, it is not proposed to make it mandatory to bring out Combined Directory.

(d) No, Sir. The CD RoM is available at all Customer Service Centres/ Sanchar Haats of MTNL at cost. Printed Telephone Directory is supplied free of cost.

Unified Telecom Licence

1711. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the proposal for a Unified Telecom Licence and for hike in FDI in basic and cellular services from 49 per cent to 74 per cent;

(b) the manner in which this Unified Licence would help in increasing tele-density and growth of the sector through competition; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, *inter-alia*, based on the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), an Addendum to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) has been issued in November, 2003 to provide for the following categories of licences for Telecommunication Services:

(i) Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services permitting Licensee to provide all Telecommunication/Telegraph